

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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HEAVEN-- The Home of The Saved

By EVANGELIST JOE HENRY HANKINS, D.D.

(Preached at Central Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois, February 24, 1946. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."—John 14:1-6.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God. Saying, Amen: Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."—Rev. 7:9-12.

[You know, when I read a thing like that in the Bible I wonder how people who are afraid to say, Amen, regardless of what kind of sermon is being preached or what kind of service is being held, are going to act in Heaven. We have

gotten so sedate and so stylish, even we Baptists, that you can hardly get a holy grunt out of a Baptist crowd any more, much less a good amen.]

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne

shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."—Rev. 7:13-17.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."—Rev. 21:1.

A New Heaven

God is going to make a new Heaven some day. We read, also, in the fifth verse of this same twenty-first chapter of Revelation, that He is going to make all things new. The word that is translated new literally means renewed or renovated. Why is it necessary for God to make a new Heaven and a new earth? God is a holy God, and God does not propose to live with sin. He cannot; and God has sworn by Himself that He is going to purge this universe of sin, and everything that sin has touched. When God gets through there will not be a mark, a stain, a blot of sin left; not a scar nor a trace. Every pollution of sin will be thoroughly purged.

"What!" you say, "Has sin ever touched Heaven? Has sin polluted Heaven?" Yes! God tells us in His word that once there was war in Heaven; that Satan and his angels rebelled against God. Sin, in other words, has stuck its ugly head and made its slimy trail right up to the very throne of God; and God is going to make a new Heaven. When God starts in to purge sin out of His universe, every person that ever lived on this earth who holds on to his sin and has not been washed of that sin in the blood of Jesus Christ, will be purged out with it. Oh, my friend, hear me! If sin is so

(Continued on Page 5)



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

Evangelism Is Orthodoxy on Fire

By REV. BOB JONES, Sr., Founder Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee

This is being dictated on our arrival home from short evangelistic campaigns in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Crawfordsville, Indiana. Twenty-nine years ago in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we conducted a city-wide, union, tabernacle campaign which ran for six weeks, during which time there were more than five thousand and professed conversions. The recent short evangelistic campaign was conducted in the old Mel Trotter mission, which has a seating capacity of approximately two thousand. The superintendent of this mission is Rev. Fred Zarfes, who was formerly in the Salvation Army in Canada. Brother Zarfes is doing a great job as a frank, sincere, level-headed, constructive

evangelistic leader. We knew the mission in the old days when Mel Trotter, that irresistible, dynamic leader in the mission work, not only in America but in Europe, had charge. We found on our recent visit the same old power of conviction and the same old-time evangelistic results that they had in the palmy days when Mel Trotter was at the height of his power. Centers like the Moody Church in Chicago, the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles, the Mel Trotter Mission in Grand Rapids, and many other places in all sections of America have helped keep up the evangelistic fervency and have stimulated the orthodoxy of God's people during the spiritual depression throughout our land. We sincerely thank God for all centers of orthodoxy that have the evangelistic emphasis. God has not left America without witnesses. The Devil hates centers of testimony like the old Mel Trotter Mission in Grand Rapids, and he does all he can to destroy such centers. Spiritually-minded Christian people should co-operate with all servants of the Lord Jesus Christ who are leaders in these great centers. We Christians should pray for them and to the very limit of our influence should co-operate with them in the work they are doing for our Lord.

While in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Crawfordsville, Indiana, (Continued on Page 4)



Dr. Bob Jones

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST



A Christmas Sermon

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, Editor

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."—Matt. 2:1-12.

The coming of Jesus showed the world in a sad light. We would never know how wicked is the human heart but for what men did to Jesus Christ. The crucifixion showed that God loved the world, but it showed also that the world hates God!

So the birth of Christ revealed men. "There was no room for them in the inn" when Jesus was born. Herod planned to murder the Baby Jesus and all Jerusalem was troubled when they heard that the long looked for King of the Jews was born. Most of the world knew little and cared less when a virgin gave birth to the Son of God. A few shepherds, Simeon, and Anna the prophetess loved and worshipped the Baby Jesus. And with these, casting a sacred and holy light on the dark picture of wicked, godless men despising

the Light of the world, are the wise men from the east.

Who Were the Wise Men?

The Scripture simply says, "Wise men from the east." Take a map of Bible lands and trace east across the desert to the first great land which will be Babylonia or Assyria. Evidently from there these wise men came. Babylon many years before had been influenced by the great man Daniel, carried captive there when but a boy. He had been the most important minister and wise man in the reign of several great emperors. The book of Daniel was written there, and most of it in the Chaldaic or Syriac language! We naturally believe that these wise men were spiritually-minded, saved men, acquainted with the

(Continued on Page 2)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

From the Editor

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."—II Cor. 9:15.

Let us rejoice in the blessings of the Christmas season. I trust that each one of you will have family gatherings, will give and receive greetings and pleasant gifts. But don't forget the main Christmas gift! If you are poor and unable to buy gifts for the children, you still have Jesus. If you cannot get to the family reunion, you can still have the joy of the Saviour in your heart. If there is no turkey for the table, no laughter of little children, no carols around the Christmas tree, no visiting with loved ones and friends, you can still have God's unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ, in your heart and be happy in Him! May He be very near to every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD at this Christmas season, is the loving prayer of the editor.

—Evangelist John R. Rice

Thank God for Christmas!

By EVANGELIST ROBERT J. WELLS, Associate Editor

Christmastime is here again! Once more it seems that the very atmosphere is flooded with the spirit of Christmas joy. We hear the sweet strains of the familiar Christmas carols. In church, in school, in home, in places of business, on the street corner and over millions of radios come the glad tidings. In the midst of the din, and the confusion of commercialism come the triumphant notes of praise, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come," and the invitation, "Let earth receive her King." We hear songs of gladness and adoration, words of peace, comfort and cheer, expressions of praise and glorious testimony concerning the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the fulfillment of many prophecies and God's offer of salvation to sinners!

No other time in all the year is (Continued on Page 3)



Dr. Robert J. Wells

Three Wise Men from the East

(Continued from Page 1)

book of Daniel and from that, knew about the holy city, Jerusalem, and about the promised "King of the Jews."

Tradition says there were three wise men, but the Bible does not say. Perhaps most of us got our ideas from the novel, Ben Hur, but that good book is not inspired. There were three kinds of gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Perhaps there were three men, we do not know.

The word translated "wise men" is the Greek "Magi." I believe which Young's Analytical Concordance defines as meaning "Persian astronomers or wise men." At least we know that these wise men were spiritually-minded, saved men who knew that the Saviour was to be born and came to worship Him. At enormous expense and trouble these wise men came from the east to see Jesus, to worship Him and offer gifts.

Perhaps they rode camels, we do not know. They had to cross a great desert or go around it. It would take many days to make the journey. It took Ezra and his companions four months to come from Babylon back to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:9). These men may have taken as much time.

The Star

The wise men said about Jesus, "We have seen his star in the east" (Matt. 2:2). And later the same star appeared to them again at Jerusalem and went before them till it stood over where the baby Jesus was (verse 9). The word "star" in ancient languages might have meant either star, planet, comet or meteor. Astronomers have tried to pick out the star but have not been able to agree upon it. Why should they? If God sent a star to lighten the wise men, He could easily work a miracle about it and I believe that He did. He prepared a star just as in the book of Jonah He prepared a fish. The appearance of the angels was a miracle. The birth of the Saviour Himself, with no human father, was the greatest miracle of all. Why should not God work a miracle and prepare a heavenly body especially for the occasion, or move it out of its course in the Heavens to signal the birth of the Son of God, the Creator of all the fiery hosts of the Heavens! It is best to take the facts as mentioned in the Bible with the same simple unquestioning faith that the wise men had. They were astronomers, I have no doubt, and their keen minds must have been thrilled but with simple and child-like hearts they accepted the supernatural token and went to seek the King of the Jews!

They Followed the Bible

How did these wise men of the east know that there was to be a King of the Jews? Do you suppose God revealed to them supernaturally the facts about the coming Saviour without any human agency? Not likely. Remember that the Bible says, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). It is God's plan that men shall learn through His revealed Word. God uses signs and dreams and wonders and impressions and leading by the Holy Spirit, but He uses them to back up the teaching of His Word. We know from the Scripture that it is God's plan that men should hear the Word of God from other men, or read the Word of God as men have written it down. Cornelius, a devout and prayerful man, could not be saved until God sent him Peter to

preach the gospel. Abraham would not send Lazarus from the dead to preach the gospel since they already had the Bible, "Moses and the prophets." God honors His Word and demands that men hear His Word. When you follow what light you can get from the Bible, you may be sure that the Holy Spirit will lead you. He never leads contrary to the Bible and usually, at least, does not lead people who will not take the Bible. So these wise men must have heard through the Scriptures or some man of God of the coming Saviour.

In Daniel 9:25 the wise men probably read of "The Messiah, the Prince," that is, the King, and the immediate context mentions the holy city of "Daniel's people which is Jerusalem." And in the same verse THE WISE MEN FOUND A PLAIN PROMISE OF THE TIME WHEN THE SAVIOUR WOULD COME. He was to come sixty-nine weeks of years, that is, 483 years, after the royal command went out to restore Jerusalem in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. These wise men probably knew about the records. Then they must have known that the time was at hand for the Saviour to be born! It is not surprising that the wise men knew—it is more surprising that everybody else did not know. In fact, when you read the gospels with this in mind, it becomes evident that multitudes did believe the time was at hand for the Saviour to appear. When John the Baptist came, many people "mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ or not" (Luke 3:15; John 1:20-22).

God had revealed to Simeon that he should not die until he saw the Saviour (Luke 2:26). When Jesus worked miracles, the people said, "When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?" (John 7:31; Matt. 12:23). Even the poor half-breed Samaritan woman with all her false ideas was looking for the Messiah and said, "I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things" (John 4:25). The Scribes and Pharisees must have known about this promise for all Jerusalem was troubled when the wise men asked where the King of the Jews should be born.

It is important that we recognize here that God honored His Word. It seems almost certain to me that the wise men studied their Scriptures, that is, what Scriptures they had (evidently the book of Daniel) and therein they learned the time the Saviour was to be born.

God gave the star for a witness but it was a witness to verify the infallible Word of God.

The nineteenth Psalm shows that the Word of God is greater and more perfect than the heavenly bodies. The first six verses of that Psalm speak about the heavens, the firmament, the sun, etc., but verse 7 then brings in the contrast that "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Nature is not perfect, but the Bible is! Nature bears witness that there is a God, but only the law of the Lord can convert a soul! Do not give the star the credit for revealing to the wise men all about Jesus. It was given, surely, as a token, an encouragement, a witness, but they got the clear teaching, upon which they based their faith, doubtless, from the Word of God itself! Oh, that we would magnify the Word of God!

If wise men from the east would travel hundreds and hundreds of miles on the single testimony of one verse of Scripture, Daniel 9:25, how ought we to serve God and live for Him with the multiplied thousands of promises in our Old and New Testaments!

Why They Came to Jerusalem

Why did the wise men come to Jerusalem to inquire for the Saviour? Jesus was not born in Jerusalem. But they followed what light they had. They acted in faith on the Scriptures that

was given them. We know the book of Daniel was written in that Eastern country, and that part of it, from Daniel 2:4 to Daniel 7:28, was written in Aramaic or Chaldaic, (practically the same language) the language of the Babylonians. God must have intended that the Babylonian people and their descendants should especially learn a lesson from this book of Daniel. But Daniel does not tell where Jesus would be born. It mentions the holy city, Jerusalem, but does not mention Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ. Micah the prophet tells us in chapter 5, verse 2, that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem. The wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They could go no further until they got further light from the Bible! The Bible led them to the Holy Land and to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem and to the Saviour. We should follow the Scripture as explicitly as did these wise men. The Bible always leads men to Christ when they follow it. The Bible, whether Old Testament or New, is a signboard pointing to Jesus Christ.

Another interesting lesson is that if you want to understand more of the Bible, then act on what Scripture you already know.

The Star Did Not Lead the Wise Men

There is a popular misconception about the star. The story is generally told that the star led the wise men to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem. It did not. The star simply appeared in the east and then without the star, the wise men followed the Scripture to Jerusalem. Later, after they had gone to Jerusalem, had inquired and learned that the Saviour would be born at Bethlehem, after they had "departed" (verse 9), then the star appeared to them again, and went before them! The Scripture says, "Lo, the star"! It was a great surprise. And verse 10 says, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." When a servant runs before the king to clear the road, he is not leading the king. When the star went before the wise men, it was not leading the wise men. They were following God's Word and God simply added the testimony of His approval by the star. The Word of God is much more important than the star.

I can imagine that as the wise men plodded long mile after long mile across sandy, burning deserts, up rocky hills and across rivers, they must have said to themselves many times, "Are we making a mistake? Is all this time and money and sacrifice wasted in following a vain hope? Have we played the fool to go so far with such little evidence to back up the Word of God?" They must have had their doubts. Faith does have doubts. Knowledge has none. When I first believed in Christ, that was faith. After I had the joy in my heart and He proved Himself in so many ways, my faith grew stronger, my doubts grew weaker, but when I get to Heaven my faith will be made perfect and will turn into perfect knowledge. "Faith will be lost in sight" until faith is completed. We may expect some doubts on the road.

Some people believe that the happiest day of one's life should be when he is converted, but that is not true. The way should grow brighter as you serve God better and know Him better. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18). So the wise men had their doubts, their fears, their misgivings first and then, thank God, after they had got all the light they could from the Word of God and were acting in faith upon that light God gave them, the token of His favor; lo, the star appeared again! They had seen it in the east. Now, to see it again and to have it proven that they were on the right track was joy unspeakable. "And when they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Christian friend, it is joy further on! Fear not to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Fear not to leave houses and land, father, mother, brother, and sister and all

things for Jesus' sake. Fear not to take Him at His Word and believe all He said, and believing, to risk everything that God will do even what He has promised. In due time God will give you all the evidence you need if only you will follow His Word by faith.

Do not depend upon feeling, for feeling is fickle. It ebbs and flows. Feeling may make a lost man feel that he is saved. It has many times made a saved man feel that he is lost. Feeling is often a dreadful liar! Your feelings are deceiving since they may picture your own heart and not the heart of God. They are based too often on your own deeds, worthy of destruction, and not on the marvelous grace of God. Someone asked Luther, "Do you feel that you have been forgiven?" He answered, "No! but I'm as sure as there's a God in Heaven. For feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are deceiving; My warrant is the Word of God, Nought else is worth believing. Though all my heart should feel condemned

For want of some sweet token, There is One greater than my heart,

Whose Word cannot be broken. I'll trust in God's unchanging Word

Till soul and body sever: For though all things shall pass away,

His Word shall stand forever."

The wise men had their joy. They saw the star but this joy came after obedience and faithful following of the Word of God. If they had not been on the road to Bethlehem, I doubt whether these men would have ever seen the star again.

The Wise Men Were Saved

These wise men did not come to cuddle a baby, to toss him in the air, to tickle him under the chin. Instead, they came to give gifts unto the King, to worship the Son of God, to trust in the Lamb of God who was to die for sinners. When they saw the Baby Jesus, they "fell down and worshipped him."

The gifts of the wise men tell a wondrous tale. These men opened their treasures and gave gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. They were fitting gifts. By faith, these godly men gave the things that would best picture that which was due Jesus.

They gave Him gold. Gold is the tribute for a king and fit for the worship of a God. The holy or holies in the temple had only golden vessels. Gold, the universal money, as brought to Jesus, symbolizes that He is the Creator and Owner of all things. To Him tribute is due. At Christmas time we should offer gifts to Jesus, but all the year our tithes and offerings, given out of loving and surrendered hearts, should picture our humble submission to Him as Lord.

Frankincense is a type of prayer and praise offered to Christ as God. They knew about the virgin birth of Christ in spirit—at least they knew this Child was the Son of God. In some way, God had made it clear to their hearts that they should offer the kind of incense which was forbidden by the Mosaic law to any secular use. I do not suppose they knew the Mosaic law, but in their hearts they knew that Jesus was the very Son of God, and they worshipped and praised Him as such.

Take away the tinsel and trappings of our modern drinking, eating, carousing, commercial Christmas and give us instead a Christmas with a virgin-born Christ, announced by angels and received with faith! Jesus is God!

They brought also myrrh, the bitter spice which reminds us of those with which they wrapped the body of Jesus when He was buried. The myrrh reminds us of the bitter spices with which the roasted passover lamb was eaten. It speaks of death, of suffering, of the price of sin! These wise

"GO OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES" ... Luke 14:23

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men from the east were wise indeed, with spiritual wisdom, revealed by the Spirit of God. They knew that this Baby Jesus some way must suffer for man's sins and dying as the Lamb of God, would take away the sins of the world. I do not think all this was clear in their minds, but I believe that God put the essence of it into their believing hearts.

So the Christ Child, at Christmas, is pictured as the King who will reign, the King of the Jews at His second coming; the very God to whom men must give an account; and the dying Saviour who made atonement for the sins of the world!

My friends, may this Christmas message lead you with humble hearts to search the Scriptures that will lead you to find the Christ more and more. If you do not know and love Him, I trust that you, like the wisemen, will find Him at any cost, and then finding Him, that you open your treasures and give Him all the love and devotion of your heart! Trust Jesus as your Saviour this Christmas, love Him with all your heart, claim Him openly as Saviour as did the wise men of the east!

A Prisoner Says:

"Dear Brother in Christ:

"Praise God, I have a very dear friend in Rev. Peter Tanis of the Pacific Garden Mission of Chicago, and it is through him that I got acquainted with THE SWORD OF THE LORD, your Christian weekly paper. Dr. Rice, I thank God and you for the subscription of THE SWORD OF THE LORD that you send to me. Rev. Tanis tells me that you send him twenty copies every week, to send to the men in this institution. May I tell you that they are deeply appreciated. I know some of the inmates who are getting the paper from Rev. Tanis, and these men have plenty of fine things to say about them. THE SWORD OF THE LORD to me is the next thing to my Bible, and I go to both for food and drink for my soul. Brother Rice, us fellows here have what we call a route, and it is a means of transferring a paper or magazine from one cell to another. Now I have seventeen different men on the route of THE SWORD OF THE LORD paper that I get, and sometimes it is three to four weeks before I get my paper back after I send it to these men to read. You may well believe that no paper lies idle in any cell after it leaves mine. You should see each paper as it comes back to me. They've been put to such good use that they are almost beyond reading. They're so torn and frayed from being handled so much. They're truly well studied and read. THE SWORD OF THE LORD is a great blessing to us. My main purpose for writing this letter to you is to let you know all this, and to let you know how deeply appreciated the paper is. I have never had a finer paper. It contains the finest sermons I ever had the privilege to read. Every week I, as well as some of the others here, look for the coming of this great paper..."

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Thank God for Christmas!

(Continued from Page 1)

quite like Christmas. Mighty cities and country villages alike dress up and decorate themselves with the colors of the rainbow and bright lights. Streets, stores and homes are alike clothed in the garments of gaiety. Almost everyone takes time out from a busy life to send greetings to friends and loved ones around the world. We hear the merry laughter of the children who seem happier than at any other time and on every hand there is the smile and cheery greeting, "Merry Christmas."

And why is all this? Why does the so-called Christian world take a holiday and give itself over almost completely to merry-making and joy, to singing, and feasting and gladness? Because Jesus the Saviour is born! Within the heart of every true child of God there should well up an anthem of praise, appreciation and gladness because even though it happened over nineteen hundred years ago, the birth of Jesus is the cause of all this celebration and the source and inspiration of all the joy! Though much of the celebration may be shallow and insincere and though most of the singing and expressions of joy may come from the hearts of those who are not right with God, yet the very fact of this almost universal testimony to the Saviour, should cause every Christian to rejoice and say from the depths of their hearts, "Thank God for Christmas!"

Though we dislike to admit it, it seems that there are always those who seem to take delight in spreading pessimism and gloom and detracting from the blessedness and the joyousness of the season by proffering their silly criticisms; "holier than thou," extreme fundamentalists with a superiority complex and hyper-critical heart! To be sure, they are not very numerous and relatively few people take them seriously, but they have been instrumental in bringing questions and creating some uncertainty in the minds of good, honest, sincere people about the advisability of entering into the spirit, activities and festivity of the modern Christmas.

To help those who would like to have their minds set at ease by having some of these questions answered I mention just a few of the criticisms and objections and answer them briefly. They are not worthy of much consideration and I would not want them to interfere with your joyful, happy, wholehearted observance of this day among days.

I. Some Criticisms Briefly Answered

First of all, there are those who call upon believers in Christ to take no part in what they term a "heathen festival." They say that because ancient heathen festivals were held on this day, or at this approximate time of the year, such as the festival of the Saturnalia among the Greeks, the feast of lights or Chanuka of the Hebrews and the feast of Jual among the Scandinavians, any recognition of Christmas would be either pagan or Jewish and hence altogether improper. Then there are those too, who say that since the word, Christmas, refers to "Christ's mass" of Roman Catholic origin, it should be repudiated by all Protestants. It is true that there were ancient, pagan and Hebrew festivals at the season now generally recognized as the birthday of our Lord, and it is likewise true that the Roman Catholic Church has taken advantage of this day for the celebration of special "Christ's masses" and hence propagated the name Christmas during the years of its almost universal sway. But why should these facts hinder our observance of the birthday of the Saviour? The Christian world which alone celebrates the birthday of Christ is not commemorating some pagan or Jewish festival and despite the fact that Catholics observe three special masses on that day, we are not celebrating or commemorating masses. We are observing the birthday of the Son of God. What-

ever others may do on that day makes no difference to us for our interest is centered solely in the remembrance of the day when Christ the Saviour was born.

But there are some who say, "We are not sure that December 25th is the day of Christ's birth." This is indeed true—no one can dogmatically say with positive assurance that Christ was born on December 25th. Yet, on the other hand, no amount of quibbling can gainsay the fact that most scholars are agreed that is as close to the exact date as we can possibly come and all branches of the so-called Christian church have agreed upon it as the best date for the special recognition of the anniversary of the Saviour's birth. Much time and space might be used for the presentation of the various answers to this objection which have been developed by the scholars down through the years, but after all, why should this be necessary? For in our commemoration of Christ's birth we are not emphasizing the fact that He was born on December 25th, but we are simply agreeing to set aside December 25th for the purpose of expressing our joy and thanksgiving for the birth of our Saviour though we are not sure as to the exact date on which it occurred.

A more serious objection because it is more readily accepted comes from those who say: "Christians are disobedient to the command of Scripture concerning the observance of days." They refer to Galatians, chapter four, verse ten:

"Ye observe days, and months, and times and years." And to Colossians 2:16-17, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days. Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

They suggest that these verses refer to the observance of Christmas as a special day and that Christians who are guilty of such observance are disobedient to the command of Scripture and place themselves under Law and bondage. These verses have reference to those who observe days in connection with the ceremonial law and the Mosaic economy, thus placing themselves under Law when through the finished work of Christ on the Cross they have been removed from under Law and placed under grace, thus reverting to legalism and the bondage of the ceremonial law. This is indeed wicked, sinful and condemned by God, but Christmas had no place in the ceremonial law. It was unknown in Old Testament times and the observance of it does not place one under Law and bondage at all. Hence, these verses are not at all applicable and those who offer such a ridiculous argument simply reveal their lack of Bible knowledge.

There are some who tell us that because there is no Scripture commanding us to observe the birth of Christ it is wrong for us to do so. If this is true, then it would be wrong for us to have the Sunday School. It would be wrong to have church services at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning and at seven-thirty on Sunday evening. It would be wrong to have a mid-week prayer meeting or a choir, for none of these things are commanded in the Word of God. God has left the manner of honoring the birthday of His Son up to those who are so inclined. And to this day one of the greatest blessings of Christmas is the spontaneity and whole-hearted enthusiasm of those who worship and honor Christ out of hearts overflowing with love and gratitude. It is not a legal matter, but it is a day to be freely commemorated as we will.

Still others tell us that Christmas has become a day of feasting, hence, Christians should have no part in it. No doubt there are those who go to excesses in this matter and are guilty of reveling and drunkenness, but that is true on the Lord's day and other days as well. So long as we are not guilty of these excesses, they

cannot be offered as a legitimate reason for refusing to participate in the festivities of Christmas.

Finally, there are some who condemn the custom of giving of gifts as being pagan and selfish and say that since this is the anniversary of Christ's birthday, all gifts should be given to Him for is not this the custom when we commemorate the birthday of friends and loved ones? It is true that the giving of gifts has been associated with pagan festivals, and for that matter ungodly, pagan people still give gifts, but is that any reason why we should refuse to give gifts and so let them have a monopoly on a good thing? No doubt it is true that there are those who give selfishly and with a desire to get something in return, who would not give unless they knew they would receive something in return. But taken as a whole, it seems that there is more unselfish giving at Christmas than at any other time. Children save their pennies to buy something for Mother and Daddy, because they want to, not because they have to and not because of selfish motives. Many take advantage of this special day as a day to give in appreciation for courtesies and blessings in the past year. Others use the day as an occasion to present gifts to the poor, the sick and the needy and certainly there can be nothing wrong with such giving. It is true that it is customary to give gifts to the birthday child when we commemorate the birthdays of our friends and loved ones and it would be well for us to give gifts to the Lord Jesus on Christmas day, but the birthday of Jesus is different than other birthdays. Things are done differently on His birthday than on other birthdays. To most thoughtful Christians giving of gifts is done in Jesus Name and for the purpose of expressing joy because of His birth and reminding us of the "unspeakable gift" of the Saviour given by God, the Father.

The obviously insignificant, petty characteristics of these criticisms should cause us to turn from them and put them out of our minds and give ourselves in whole-hearted enjoyment to the commemoration of the most glorious event in the history of mankind.

II. Two Special Evils Condemned

While petty criticisms should be of no concern to us, there are two special evils which ought to be condemned by every child of God.

First of all, there is the evil of commercialism. Since it is true that in some years people spend more than \$600,000,000 which is released from Christmas savings clubs, \$100,000,000 for Christmas trees and their decorations, \$300,000 to make sure that Santa Claus has his whiskers, \$165,000,000 for jewelry, \$300,000,000 for toys, \$120,000,000 for turkeys and other poultry and \$7,500,000 for plum pudding; since millions eat holiday dinners which, cost from twelve to twenty dollars and drink twenty dollar holiday whiskey, it is inevitable that greedy, wicked, ungodly men would take advantage of the Christmas season as a time for making money, would forget all about the essential meaning of the day and place undue emphasis on the dollar sign and make extreme, ungodly and indecent efforts to capitalize on the festive spirit of the season for the purpose of padding the bank accounts of wicked men. The amusement world and the purveyors of vice and alcoholic beverages controlled and directed, for most part by ungodly, wicked men, who have no concern for the sentiment of the day, have especially taken advantage of the occasion to become unduly aggressive in turning people's hearts toward pleasure and money rather than God. The spirit of commercialism which makes money-making a dominant factor in the observance of Christmas and causes men's hearts to be turned to pleasures and money and away from God is certainly to be condemned. We ought to lift our voices in protest and condemnation whenever we have the opportunity, and more than that, every sincere

Statement From Dr. Bob Jones

Founder of Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tenn.

My dear Friends:

This is being written just after my return from Greenville, S. C., where I watched several hundred men working on a number of the buildings for the first unit of the great Christian university plant. The contractor feels confident that he will have enough buildings completed so we can move in time for the opening of the school year 1947-48. We hope the contractor is right. We, however, can under our sales contract remain in Cleveland, Tennessee, for one more school year if it is necessary. But we hope it will not be necessary because if we do remain in Cleveland, Tennessee, we shall be compelled to turn away next year for lack of room several thousand young people, many of whom wish to train for full-time Christian work. We had to do that this school year and it hurt us too much to have to do it again another year.

We had a great thrill as we walked over the University site and saw so much work going on. But if we did not have faith in God and confidence in our Christian friends the task is so big we would be literally "scared to death." We know our Heavenly Father is able to supply all the financial needs

and we also know that He has put enough money in the hands of His children if they will respond to our appeal so the buildings can be completed and accommodations be provided for Christian young people who wish to get their training in an atmosphere of Christian decency and Christian culture.

You Christian friends will not fail us. You will send the money. I have never known God's people to refuse to support financially a good cause when they have the facts and know the needs. We are giving you the facts and you already know the needs. So I know you will not let us down. We hope that this appeal will reach you before Christmas and we hope you will send a Christmas gift of some amount to help us with this building program. We need a great deal of money by the first of January. Help all you can, but help some. We are counting on you. Remember, you can help in these three ways:

- First: You can pray for us.
- Second: You can make some financial contribution.
- Third: You can ask your friends to help us.

BOB JONES
(Advertisement)

Christian should by careful self-examination make sure that the spirit of commercialism is not a factor in his or her observance of Christmas. It is to be expected that the devil and wicked, ungodly men not able to rid the world of this tremendously effective witness to the Incarnation and the entrance of Christ into the world for the purpose of saving sinners, would seek to undermine its influence by turning men's hearts toward the pleasures and wealth of the world. The children of God should be wary of this Satanic scheme and have no part in it. But even this wicked, ungodly spirit of commercialism which

characterizes so many should not deter us, from honoring Christ at this season and participating in the widespread commemoration of His birth.

The second evil to condemn is the Santa Claus lie. It is never right to tell a lie and, of course, lies should have no part in our commemoration of our blessed Saviour's birth. I am not condemning the Santa Claus myth and I am not suggesting that it is particularly evil to play Santa Claus or to talk of Santa Claus as the "spirit of Christmas," providing it is always understood that Santa Claus is a myth and

(Continued on Page 4)

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Thank God for Christmas!

(Continued from Page 3)

that he is never presented as being real by lying and various means of deception. No matter how much we desire to have fun with the children we should not do so at the expense of the truth. No Christian can ever justify a lie and consequently must condemn the many lies that are told in connection with the Santa Claus myth. Right here let me suggest that a much more beautiful story than the Santa Claus myth is the gospel account of the entrance of the Saviour into this world as a gift from God and the Giver of all good and perfect gifts to man. This wonderful story properly presented will have more appeal and interest than the Santa Claus myth and will not involve the immoral lie.

III. Some Good Reasons for Observing Christmas

Rather than take sides with those who criticize Christians for commemorating Christmas, I would like to urge several reasons why Christians should observe Christmas.

1. It Is Proper to Celebrate Christ's Birth.

It would be strange indeed if Christians would observe no special season in honor of the greatest miracle since the creation—the Incarnation of God in human flesh! If any day should be observed, certainly it is the birthday of Christ. It seems that we must be miserable, wretched, ungrateful creatures indeed if we would not voluntarily set aside a time for commemorating the birthday of our blessed Lord! The purpose for His coming into the world should cause the children of God to desire above all else to especially commemorate the day and give honor to the One who came and the One who gave Him to us. For the Bible declares that the birth of Christ expresses God's love to a world of guilty sinners. It tells of the glorious plan whereby God took upon Himself the form of man, clothed Himself in human flesh, and came into this world to live and suffer and bleed and die so that ungodly, self-righteous men, men of every creed, race and nation might receive the gift of God which is eternal life. Such a mighty revelation from God demands appreciation, admiration and adoration. Such feelings must be expressed and multitudes honestly express them in the observance of Christmas.

The Christian has something to celebrate. Then let the world know that this is true. Give emphasis to the importance of the birth of Christ by singing and rejoicing and participating in the festive spirit of the season.

2. An Unequaled Opportunity for Testimony.

A second reason for observing Christmas is that it affords an unequalled opportunity for testimony regarding the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and God's plan of salvation which is revealed in the purpose of His coming and summarized in John three sixteen. Over and over again my heart has been thrilled as I have been in some restaurant or store or school and heard the playing and singing of the great Christmas carols. I remember especially on the first Christmas after I was married when I walked down the main street of the community where I was pastor of a little church and listened to the strains of the Christmas carols as they were sounded forth by radios, victrolas and public address systems from the various business houses. It was cold and we were poor and didn't have any money with which to buy gifts. We had to trust the Lord for our daily bread, but as I listened to those Christmas carols, I remember how I was thrilled and my heart was stirred within me and I said: "Thank God for Christmas!"

I appreciated the testimony of the carols then, but now I am an evangelist and the great passion and burden of my heart is to reach the lost with the message of the gospel. I long, as I see

the crowds in places of business and thronging the streets all over America, to be able to tell them of the coming of the Saviour and of His provision for eternal life. I long to get to speak to them personally or in some way to get them to pay attention to these wonderful things. But although many of them do listen; many do come to hear the gospel preached and pay attention to the words of the personal worker or to the printed word of a gospel tract, yet the overwhelming majority go on their ways without giving the slightest consideration to the things of God and without my having an opportunity to speak to them and to tell them of the Saviour's love.

That is true in eleven months of the year, but in the month of December, the Christmas month, things are different. The crowds are greater, people are busier than at any other season, but constantly over and over again and in a thousand different places and by varied means the great majority of the people in America hear:

"Christ, by highest Heaven adored;

Christ, the everlasting Lord. Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the Incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with men to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel."

They hear the favorite, familiar words of the carols we all like to sing, words that tell of prophecies fulfilled, of the Deity of Christ, of the glorious fact of the Incarnation, words that call upon men to rejoice and be glad and that promise peace and gladness, because of the entrance of God into the world. A thousand times, I have again and again thanked God for Christmas and all who love Him and who love the message of Christmas should rejoice in the privilege that is afforded us during this one season of every year for spreading the glad tidings of the glorious and triumphant birth of the babe of Bethlehem!

3. Christians Should Contribute to the Spirit of Joy.

The one word which describes the spirit of Christmas better than any other word is the word joy. Christmas is recognized wherever it is observed as a time of joy. Men sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come," and along with their singing there are the expressions of gladness, there is laughter, there is thanksgiving, praise and adoration, there is festivity, and so it should be because Christ is born! Of all the people in the world who should know this joy and be able to express it fully and heartily and gloriously, none should be more desirous, more anxious to contribute to the joyous spirit of Christmas than the true, born-again child of God.

IV. How Christians Should Commemorate Christmas

Let me give a few simple suggestions for the observance of the birthday of the Lord. Perhaps they will be helpful and a means of blessing to you in your commemoration of His birthday this year.

First of all, let me remind you that times of feasting and making joy, times of thanksgiving and gift-giving have a very real Scriptural foundation. In Nehemiah the eighth chapter, verses 9 through 12, we are told that after the return to the city of Jerusalem, the rebuilding of the wall and the reading of the law, the people began to weep and they were commanded, "Mourn not, nor weep," but rather, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Make much of the family. Gather them all together and spend time in singing carols and explaining the reason for the singing and the joy. Read the Christmas story as found in Matthew 1:18 through 2:12, and Luke 2:1-20. There is no better opportunity in all the year to explain and im-

press the great truths that are involved and so sweetly presented in these precious accounts. Then present gifts to one another in the name of the Saviour, and in remembrance of the great Gift that God has given us, the unspeakable gift of the matchless Saviour.

As you gather around the table to enjoy the feast of good things, take this as an occasion for offering gifts of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the gift of the Saviour, for the gift of eternal life, and all of the material blessings that are yours through Him.

Remember that the best way to honor Christ is to give ourselves to Him. So make Christmas a day of holy consecration and give yourself anew to God for the purpose of sharing in the work of reaching the lost which was the purpose for which Jesus came into the world.

Finally, remember that there is

no better time to approach people about the Saviour and about their need of eternal life. The Christmas season is not a good time for revival meetings but it is a good time to approach people individually to talk to them about God's love and about their need of eternal life. Most people are thinking about God, about Christ, about the purpose of His coming perhaps, about spiritual things; their hearts are tender. And because of this, it is perhaps the easiest season in all the year in which to engage in personal soul-winning.

May God grant that for each and every reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD there may be a joyous Christmas and a hearty response to all of the blessings associated with the commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour and that will enable you to say from the very depths of your heart, "Thank God for Christmas!"

Evangelism Is Orthodoxy on Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

we had the great joy of meeting many outstanding Christians who were converted in the campaign which we conducted there years ago. If we never had believed in the abiding influence and blessing of great evangelistic campaigns, we would have been convinced after our recent visits to these two cities that great mass evangelistic movements do leave permanent and wonderful results in a community. There is, of course, rubbish in all great evangelistic campaigns as there is rubbish in all movements of all kinds—big or little. The Republican Party recently had a revival in America, and this party will have control of the Senate and the House in just a few months. If the Republican Party had not had a revival, it would sooner or later have been a dead party. Some people voted the Republican ticket in this election who will never again vote the Republican ticket, but thousands of people under the influence of the recent political revival voted for the first time the Republican ticket who will be Republicans until they die. No real Republican objects to a Republican revival after winning control of the House and Senate in the recent election. No orthodox, Christian minister who has the facts or the intelligence to get the facts will object to a great spiritual revival. They are as necessary to the Christian program as political revivals are to the life of a political party and as business revivals are to the success of business. When business gets dull, intelligent business leaders stimulate business. When a church begins to lose its "spiritual punch" and its spiritual influence, an intelligent, consecrated Christian pastor knows the church needs a revival. Years ago the writer was conducting a union evangelistic campaign in a southern town. There was an old dignified, formal pastor of a very cold, formal, worldly church who said to the writer, "Brother Jones, I have not been very strong for great evangelistic campaigns, but my church is in such a fix, I am just saying now, 'Any way, Lord, any way.'" At the close of the meeting there, he told the writer that the revival really restored the spiritual influence of his church in that community.

"There are so many mass evangelistic movements put on by extreme, eccentric men in some sections of America, I no longer believe evangelists," a certain pastor said to the writer one day. We asked the pastor to name the evangelists to whom he referred. He gave the names of certain men who were evangelists in certain religious sects that are known to be eccentric. I told the pastor that the pastors in these religious sects were just as eccentric as the evangelists, and we asked him if he were against pastors because these pastors in these religious sects were eccentric. There are

evangelists and evangelists, just as there are pastors and pastors. Isn't it significant that not one breath of scandal has been brought against the name of any well-known, outstanding American evangelist; yet no group of men has ever been so maligned and criticized. There must be a reason. This opposition to evangelists and evangelism is a satanic opposition. Evangelism is old-time orthodoxy on fire. The Devil hates orthodoxy, but he hates it worse when it is on fire. He does not want men to believe the truth. But the Devil really hates men who believe the truth so much that they go out to propagate it and live it.

All Christians do not agree on the program of God for our age. There are post-millennialists who believe that the Gospel will permeate human society and sometime through the uplifting influence of Christianity and through the social influences that go out from the Gospel the world will become a perfect world and we will have, according to these post-millennial teachers, a thousand years of righteousness on this earth, and then Christ will come back again. There are some Bible teachers who are known as millennialists. They say there will simply be no millennium. Then we have the pre-millennialists, and the writer belongs to this group. We pre-millennialists believe that the purpose of God in this Church Age is to gather out from among the nations of the earth a people for His name. We believe that when this is completed, our Lord will receive all these saved ones and then He will come back to the earth bringing these saved ones with Him and He will reign on the earth for a thousand years. We, of course, know that while the Gospel is being preached and the Spirit of God is working in the world that evil is restrained and social conditions are made better. But the purpose of God in this age is to gather out from the nations of the earth a people for His name. This is the conclusion that was reached at the famous church conference that was held in Jerusalem and about which we read in the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the apostles. The man who is out to win souls is the man who is really working with God in the carrying out of His program. Therefore, the Devil opposes any great mass evangelistic movements or any other kind of movements, the purpose of which is to bring the lost to Jesus Christ.

The Devil is not against education. He is not even against ecclesiastical machinery. The Devil is against the program of the Gospel, and he does not want any Christian to try to win people to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no intelligent argument that any Christian can make against constructive mass evangelism. Mass evangelism has been as reputable

in our land as any other type work ever done by the Christian church. There has been excitement in some mass evangelistic movements, but there was a good deal of excitement on the day of Pentecost. At that time sinners themselves made some of the excitement. They said the saints were drunk. There has been some rather strange emotional manifestations in some evangelistic meetings that never appealed to the writer. But these strange manifestations were the result of satanic arrows which the Devil had shot into the movements. They were not the result of the movements. They were the satanic effort to stop the movement. The greatest need in this nation now is a revival of the old-time, Holy Spirit-directed and intelligently-organized mass evangelistic campaigns. Sinners are getting the Gospel over the radio. Many of them are hungry for God. Great mass evangelistic campaigns would stir up Christians to go out into the highways and hedges and seek the lost and bring them to Jesus Christ. It is more difficult to get sinners into evangelistic services than it has ever been in the lifetime of the writer, but it is much easier to get them saved when they get into evangelistic meetings.

Comment on The Home: Courtship, Marriage and Children

"... My husband and I read a copy and loaned it to several people. A man in my husband's office, whom he hardly knew, mentioned that they were having trouble handling his little boy. My husband said he had a good book on the subject, and loaned him Dr. Rice's book, 'The Home.' It was returned later with the comment that he and his wife had both read it and had started taking the child to Sunday School. Some time later he told my husband that the boy's tantrums were over and he would like a copy of 'The Home' for himself and asked my husband if he could get a copy for him. This order is for that copy. We not only loaned the book, but sent lots of prayer after it, so we are glad of this answer."

Mrs. R. A. B.
So. Weymouth, Mass.

A CHRISTMAS SUGGESTION

By the Editor

Is there still someone for whom you have no Christmas gift, some relative neglected in the shopping? It may be that work or sickness has prevented buying the gift you intended to give.

Let me suggest that you simply send them a nice Christmas card and inside write: "This certifies that I am sending you with my love a year's subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Let each copy remind you of my best wishes and fervent love through 1947." Then send their complete name and address with \$2.00 for the subscription and through the entire year they will receive America's foremost evangelistic weekly. Thousands say it is the best Christmas gift they ever received.

Our address, Sword of the Lord, 214 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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Heaven--The Home of The Saved

(Continued from Page 1)

loathsome to God that He would make a new Heaven because sin had touched Heaven, then dismiss from your mind the thought that anybody ever will live with God who has not been purged from his sins in the blood of Jesus Christ. No, God is not only going to be rid of sin but He is also going to be rid of everything sin has ever touched. "Behold, I make all things new," says God.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them."

Tabernacle means 'dwelling place.' That means that this new Jerusalem will be the capital city, and Heaven will be moved right down here upon the earth. Then will be fulfilled the promise of the Scripture that the righteous shall inherit the earth. Brother, listen! I know lots of people who sell their souls for a little bit of this world. An they can keep it for only a very short time, a very few years. I will take mine after a while. And when I come into my own and when God's people inherit the earth, inherit all things (that is what He says in this same chapter from which I am reading)—it will be ours for eternity. Oh, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal" and where you have to lie down and die and leave them! I have something in Heaven with God, an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Give me that, and you can have the world.

Back in Arkansas we used to sing a song, "Take the world but give me Jesus." That is my sentiment tonight. Take the whole world, but give me Jesus! I tell you, it is great to be a Christian!

Now let us read on:

"...and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. [Oh, brother, that is Heaven He is talking about—the home of God's redeemed, the place of many mansions which Jesus spoke about.] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. [And to me that is the most glorious thing about it. By that He means we can absolutely count on its being just exactly as He told us it would be.] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is a thirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."—Rev. 21:3-7.

We read again in Revelation, chapter 22:

"And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [Isaiah says that the inhabitants of that land will never say one to the other, 'I am sick.' Oh, praise God for what He has for His children! We will never sit by the side of a sick bed or weep by the side of another death bed. There will never be another death scene. We will never have to watch as the breath grows short and the eyes grow dim as our loved ones are slipping away. There will be no death there. What would you take for a hope like that?] And there shall be no

more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."—Rev. 22:1-5.

Heaven! the home of God's redeemed!

Where Is Heaven?

But where is Heaven? Does the Bible locate it for us more than just to say it is up? Yes. In the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah, verses 12 to 14, we read about the casting of Satan out of Heaven: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." "I am going to usurp the throne of God. I will sit where God sits on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." That is where Heaven is.

Again you will find it in Psalm 48:2: "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

When God gave to Moses instructions as to what to do with the blood of the sacrifice, he said pour it out on the north side of the altar toward the Lord. Heaven, my friend, is in the North. When I found that, I said, "How wonderful is God's Word!" When the Bible says Heaven is up, it is exactly right, because from any point on the face of the earth the only direction that is always up is north. It is no accident that where ever you find men—I do not care who they are nor where they live—from here to the south pole they always say "Up north" and, "Down south." It is no accident that that is in the speech of men. And then it is no accident that scientists call the north pole the top of the world. Why couldn't they just as easily have designated the south pole as the top of the world? It hangs right out in the middle of space. I will tell you why the north pole is called the top of the world: it points toward the north star. Yonder on the sides of the north sits the One who made the universe. It is no accident either that the whole universe revolves around the north star. If you could focus a camera on the north star that would take in all the heavens around and let that focus stand long enough you would find that every star, every planet, every constellation, every solar system would make a complete circle around the north star. The Scripture says, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist," or hold together (Col. 1:16, 17).

The Three Heavens

Well, what about the first, second, and third heaven? In the first chapter of Genesis we read, "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven" (Gen. 1:20). That is the first heaven. The Bible uses the exact language that we use. We speak of the birds of the heavens. We speak of the heavens being overcast with clouds. We say that the heavens are filled with airplanes. And God say that the

birds fly in the open firmament of heaven

In Psalm -19:1, 2 we read: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." Then the fourth verse says, "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun." You and I speak every day about the stars of the heavens. That is the second heaven mentioned in the Bible.

But the third Heaven mentioned in the Scriptures is the place where God dwells. Paul said, "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter" (II Cor. 12:2-4). Here Paul tells us that the third Heaven and Paradise are one and the same place. Well, now where is Paradise? Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." And when He breathed out His last, He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." In other words, He said, "I am coming to you." So Paradise is where the Father is.

Revelation 2:7 tells us that the tree of life is in the midst of the Paradise of God. Revelation 22:1, 2 tells us that the river of life flows out of the throne of God and the Lamb, and the tree of life is on either side of the river. So Paradise is Heaven, where God is now. And the third Heaven is the same place.

Do the Saved Go to Heaven Immediately Upon Death?

Then the next question we answer is this: Do the saved go to Heaven immediately at death? Yes. "How do you know, preacher?"

God said so. Hear the Word of the Lord, not mine. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1). And further we read, "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight;) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:6-8). Does that sound like purgatory? Does that sound like soul-sleeping? Does that sound like any kind of an intermediate state? "Absent from the body, and . . . present with the Lord!"

That is why Paul said: "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Phil. 1:23).

Where is Christ? Hear it! "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right of God" (Rom. 8:34). Paul said, "Depart, and be with Christ;" and again, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

Just before Stephen was stoned he looked into Heaven, and said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). And then when he sank down in death, he said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Yes, my friend, if the Bible is clear on anything, it is clear on

the fact that when a child of God closes his eyes in death, he opens them on the face of Christ that very instant. The fact of the matter is that God has permitted many of His saints to see the Lord before they crossed over, just about the time of the crossing; and they have left their testimony behind.

My mother said that her father, just before he passed away, called the children around to tell them good-by. They began to cry, as they naturally would; and Grandpa said, "Don't cry. Why would you cry? Here is Jesus, and here is Mother with Him. And they are not crying; they are happy. They have come for me to take me home."

Many a child of God has left that testimony as he crossed over. Oh, my friend, isn't it wonderful to be a Christian? The hour of death that, to the lost world, is the greatest enemy of all mankind, has no sting for a child of God. For the child of God can say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; [That is the only thing that makes men afraid of death—sin.] and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:55-57). Triumphant in the hour of death!

Dwight L. Moody, when the time of his crossing had come, asked his daughter who stood by, "Is this death?"

She said, "Yes, Father."

He said, "No, this is my coronation day!"

"Absent from the body; present with the Lord!"

A woman said to me, "If you go to Heaven immediately when you die, what is the use of a judgment?" Well, she would never have asked that question if she had understood the Bible teaching on the judgments. God does not teach anywhere that any judgment is to determine where I am going to spend eternity. Brother, there is but one time when that is decided, and there is but one person on earth who decides it. You decide that while you live right here in this life, and it is decided on one basis and one only, and that is what you do with Jesus. Judgment has nothing to do with determining where you will spend eternity. You decide that yourself. Nobody else can do it. If you go to Hell, it will be because you made the wrong choice yourself. "For God so loved the world, [you included] that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The invitation is, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). And the assurance is, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Will We Know Our Loved Ones There?

The next question is: Will we know our loved ones in Heaven? Yes. Will my mother be mother

to me in Heaven? Yes. Love never dies. It is eternal. It is from God. Besides that, the Bible assures me that I will know my loved ones there. In II Samuel 12:18-23, you remember we are told that David's baby had died. He had prayed for that baby seven days and seven nights: fasted, and wept, and prayed; but the baby died. His servants said, "We can't tell him. If he has grieved over that baby as he has while he was sick, refused food, and fasted, and prayed, and wept all these seven days, what will happen when he hears that the baby is dead?"

David saw them whispering to each other, and David knew that the baby had died; so he asked them the point-blank question, "Is the child dead?"

They said, "He is dead." Instead of going all to pieces, as they thought, he got up from the ground, wiped away his tears, went into the house, changed his clothes, asked for food, ate what was set before him, and then went into the house of God and worshipped.

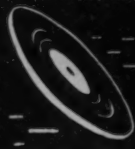
They said, "How could he do this?"

David said, "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." And God put that in the blessed holy Book. Why? Because God knew that David would not be the last parent that had to follow a loved one or a little baby out yonder to the City of the Dead, and God wanted that mother or that father to know that you can go to that one again, that you can have that dear one again. Oh, you know, to me one of the most blessed things about Heaven is the reunion that is going to be ours with our loved ones!

Jesus said, "Many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 8:11). Yes, the same Abraham that walked the hills of Judea; the same Isaac that he took up yonder on Mount Moriah that day; the same Jacob that made his pillow out of those stones and saw the ladder reaching to Heaven and saw the angels ascending and descending. Jesus said to the Sadducees, "And as touching the dead, that they rise; have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err" (Mark 12:26, 27).

On the Mount of Transfiguration, when Moses and Elijah stood beside Jesus, the disciples present recognized them. Nobody had to tell Peter, James and John who they were; they recognized them immediately. They were still the same Moses and Elijah that had lived here upon the earth. It was the same Moses that had led the children out of Egypt, across the

(Continued on Page 6)



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Heaven--The Home of The Saved

(Continued from Page 5)

Red Sea and through the forty years in the wilderness. It was the same Elijah that was taken up to Heaven in the chariot of God that day. The same Moses that walked up Nebo with God that day, and God buried him there; recognized by men who had never seen Him and had never seen a photograph of Him.

In the fourth chapter of I Thessalonians Paul is writing to the members of that church. They had evidently thought, from what Paul said, that nobody would die, no Christian would die until Jesus came back. But as time went on and some of them died, they wondered if they would see them any more. They wondered if there was any hope. They had died before Jesus came—now what about it? Paul wrote, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. [Now don't think because they are gone, don't think that because they have fallen asleep, that you will never have them any more, that there is no hope; don't sorrow as those sorrow who do not have any hope.] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [He is coming back again and He will bring them with Him.] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, [There will be no going before anybody! Brother, we will go together! That is what he says. We will go together! Those of our loved ones that are sleeping in the grave will be raised from the dead, and together we will go to meet the Lord. Oh, what a reunion that is going to be!] to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (I Thess. 4:13-18). You who are sorrowing over the death of your loved ones, get comfort from this. You will have a home-coming, a reunion one day. You will have them again. How much clearer could God make it?

One of these days I expect to walk down the golden streets of the new Jerusalem with my precious mother. Heaven used to seem to me a place a long way off, but since Mother has gone there, it seems so much more real to me now, and a lot closer. Why, bless your heart, sometimes it seems to me that Heaven is so close that I could almost reach up and touch it, since Mother is there. Praise God, one day we will be reunited, never to be separated again!

What Will We Do in Heaven?

The Scripture says, "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:15). Friend, the greatest joy that I have ever found on this earth is serving the Lord. I had never known real joy until I cut loose from everything and gave my life to the Lord to serve Him. You know, I feel sorry for Christian people who just dabble around the edge, live with one foot in the world and one foot in the church. They have never known what it is to really live. They have never known real joy.

If you want to be happy; if you want real joy in your life, cut loose from the world and launch out into the deep with God, and be lost in the fullness of His wonderful love and fellowship. "They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). Brother, I want to tell you, it is great to serve the Lord! Oh, if you want to be happy—the Devil can't make you happy. When will God's people learn that

the world does not have anything for a Christian? When will they learn that it is feeding on ashes, as Isaiah said? When will they learn that it is going to a fountain, a broken cistern that does not have any water? Oh, drink deep at the fountain of His grace! Cut loose from the shore line and serve the Lord with gladness and singleness of heart. One of the greatest joys to me about Heaven is that I will be able to serve Him to my heart's content.

In Heaven there will be music, there will be singing; and I expect to join in that. When the saints of God start singing, brother, the angels are going to take a back seat! John says, "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, [There will not be a discord. Musicians tell us that the only perfect musical note ever made is the sound of running water.] and as the voice of mighty thunderings" (Rev. 19:6). That mighty crescendo of praise rises and swells until the whole heavens resound with that chorus of the people of God singing. And what are they singing? "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5). Brother, if you could get to Heaven without being saved, you could not sing that song, because the Scripture said, "No man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth" (Rev. 14:3). Oh, brother, it is going to be great when the singing starts! And you know, somehow I think David is going to be the choir director. I do! Because he is the greatest singer God ever had on this earth, and the greatest choir director that God ever had. I am going to sit down and watch him. I love music with a passion. I never had a chance to learn to play anything, but I have it in my soul. Nobody ever appreciated music more or loved it more than I do. When I hear an organist sit down and play those wonderful handfuls of notes at a time and in perfect harmony, I can hardly help but be envious. I want to do it so much! When I hear a violinist pick up a violin, a master, and pull that bow across the strings, it is just next to Heaven to me, and I want to do it so much that I just hurt inside. I did not have a chance to learn. But do you know what I am going to do when I get to Heaven? I am going to ask God to let me play on everything He has up there. And brother, He will do it! He will do it! Of course He will! John said, "I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps" (Rev. 14:2). You know, when I read about that, I just want to jump up and down and say, "Glory to God! Isn't it good to be a Christian!" Brother, that is the way I feel in my soul when I think about what God has for His children. Talk about shouting! I have been so happy here in this world that my soul has overflowed. And I am not ashamed of it. I am glad I love the Lord enough, and that He is real enough to me, that He sends the joy of His Holy Spirit into my heart until it runs over sometimes. I am glad that it is so. I tell you, it is great to be a Christian.

Who Will Be in Heaven?

Then, who will be there? Listen: "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" Now if we would ask you that question, some of you would say, "Why, that's the crowd that lived the best they could and treated everybody right, paid their honest debts and were good citizens and behaved themselves. That's the crowd that is going to Heaven. That is the way I'm going." No, brother, that isn't the answer John got.

And if you would ask somebody else who that crowd is, they would say, "Why, that's the crowd that belonged to our church, because we are the only crowd that is going to Heaven. If you don't come this way, why, you'll never

(Continued on Page 8)

Book Reviews

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
Autobiography of Charles G. Finney

Evangelist Charles G. Finney was the greatest influence for Christianity in America for the first half of the nineteenth century. Of the revivals led by Finney, Richard Eastworth Day says it was a "movement wherein one man, under God, brought five hundred thousand souls to light." The best of his revival campaigns were held in the nine years beginning with his ordination in 1824. But most of them were in the State of New York, including New York City, although he also held great campaigns in Philadelphia, Wilmington, Boston and in England.

Although he did not have the crowds and opportunities that D. L. Moody had, the revivals were even more remarkable, in power, within the limited circumstances. But it is doubtful if any man since apostolic times has been used of God to more thoroughly master with the gospel the cities and towns in which he preached. So great was the power of the Holy Ghost upon him, that skeptics were converted, the vilest sinners were often saved, and opposers sometimes fell dead.

In a revival campaign in Rochester, New York, says Augustus H. Strong, "the place was shaken to its foundations; twelve hundred persons united with the churches of the Rochester Presbytery, all the leading lawyers, physicians, and business men became Christians; forty of the converts entered the ministry; the whole character of the town was changed." Many others of course, joined churches beside the Presbyterians. As a result of the Rochester revival, revivals broke out in fifteen hundred towns and villages.

Charles G. Finney wrote his own story of these revivals. More than that, he wrote the story of his conversion, of the marvelous way in which he was filled with the Holy Spirit or "baptised with the Holy Ghost" as he himself expressed it. Here is the story of his prayer life, and of many, many remarkable answers to prayer. Here is the story of the kind of preaching he did; how long he preached, how he gave the invitation, how he dealt with sin among lost sinners and professing Christians. Here is the record of his own faith and of its marvelous results, under God.

I regard the autobiography of Charles G. Finney as one of the very most important books in all Christian literature. It was one of the four books that had the most profound influence on my own life. The others were: George Muller of Bristol, by A. T. Pierson, How to Pray, by R. A. Torrey, and In His Steps, by Charles M. Sheldon. But I feel certain that my own conception of strong Scriptural preaching against sin, expecting great answers to prayer, expecting great results from revival preaching, came largely from the influence of this great book on my life.

There are 477 pages in the book, a tremendous volume. The language is in the clear and pungent simplicity of the great Finney himself. There are miracles in these pages. I do not see how any sensible, earnest Christian can read it without being mightily moved to prayer and faith and soul-winning.

Mr. Finney was editor of The Evangelist, was author of Revival Lectures, and of other books, was teacher and president in Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and otherwise made a great mark on his generation. But his outstanding work was that of an evangelist, and his greatest gift to posterity is the story of his life, which has been used of God to bless multiplied thousands.

I earnestly hope that everyone who longs to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to win souls may read this book. How I wish it could be made a part of the curricu-

ulum in every Bible institute and seminary! To read and reread this book has been one of the greatest blessings I have ever had in my prayer life and my preaching and I hope many thousands more can share this blessing through the Sword Book Club which is now distributing it for \$2.25.

In His Steps

The famous Christian novel, In His Steps, by the late Charles M. Sheldon has been criticized by some people who know that, in his later life, Dr. Sheldon gave overmuch attention to the social implication of the gospel, and not enough to the gospel itself. In that, I feel that some of Dr. Sheldon's books are not worth recognition. But the book In His Steps has been so greatly used of God, has been printed in so many millions of copies and so strongly urges upon Christians the need to follow in the steps of Jesus that we feel it is a duty as well as a privilege to recommend the book.

In answer to a man who asked why we recommend and sell this Christian book, I wrote a letter. In part of the letter I quote many quotations from the book to show that it teaches regeneration, conversion, salvation by the blood of Christ, and I give those quotations here for the information of readers.

For example, on page 59, "the traveling evangelist," Mr. Gray, is introduced. Modernists do not like evangelists. Evangelists are those who hold revivals and get people converted.

On the same page "one of his converts" is mentioned. Modernists do not believe in people getting converted. The book In His Steps did believe it.

On pages 64 and 65 the book gives this decision in the heart of the principal character, Mr. Maxwell, "What was Christianity? A calling of sinners, not the righteous to repentance." Do you see anything wrong with getting sinners to repent?

On page 79 is this sentence, "Gradually they had come to understand that this man was talking these many weeks and giving his time and strength to give them a knowledge of a Saviour..." This evangelist was getting people saved, telling sinners of the Saviour.

On the same page begins a discussion of the invitation in the tent revival. Rachel, a Christian girl, was singing,

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,

And that Thou biddest me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come.

There is salvation by the blood, and coming to Christ as the Lamb of God. It is not fair, then, to say that this book is a bloodless, Christless book.

At the invitation in this tent, revival, people are coming forward with tears of repentance, kneeling and finding the Saviour. On page 80 another verse of the song, "Just As I am," is quoted:

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come.

On page 98 some society girls who heard that Rollin Page had come forward in an invitation at the tent, had knelt and accepted Christ, asked Virginia, "Is it true that your brother Rollin has been converted?"

Virginia answered, "Yes, he certainly is."

On page 123 is an account of the funeral of Loreen, at the gospel tent, as written by a visiting newspaperman. "It seems she had been recently converted during the evangelist's meetings, and was killed while returning from one of the meetings in company with other converts and some of her friends."

On page 125 the same newspaper man is quoted as writing, "I was told many of them had been converted at the meetings just recently."

The author has Rachel Winslow sing the song, "There Were Ninety and Nine." I never heard that that was a modernist song and Ira

D. Sankey did not think so when he wrote the music and sang it.

On Page 131 Rollin says, "I owe my very conversion to Rachel's singing."

On pages 193-194 the Bishop who has resigned his church to open a rescue mission says, "Why should what Dr. Bruce and I propose to do seem so remarkable a thing as if it were unheard of that a Doctor of Divinity and a Bishop should want to save lost souls in this particular manner?"

On page 194 he says again he wants to "help rescue the heathen and the lost of our own city," and again he speaks of "the rescue of souls."

Beginning on page 200 is the story of how the Bishop, after opening the rescue mission, was held up in the slums. But one of the holdup men recognized the Bishop who had once been especially kind to him. The lost man says, "We're on the road to hell, though, that's sure enough." On page 204 we find the Bishop praying, "O Lord Jesus, give me the souls of these two for Thee! I am hungry for them. Give them to me!" On page 205 the Bishop speaks to these lost men of "Him who was crucified for our sins," and again he prays, "O God, give me the souls of these two men!" And then on page 206 is this sentence, "And the Holy Spirit, struggling in these darkened sinful men, began His marvelous work of regeneration."

Now there are faults in the book In His Steps of course. I would like for it to go more into detail on doctrine. But the book itself does not teach against the plan of salvation, it is not against the Bible nor salvation by the blood.

In my own experience as a boy of fifteen this book was a tremendous blessing. I know that it early gave me a tremendous concern to please the Saviour and do as He would have me do, and that after I was saved. The testimony of thousands of other Christians on this matter cannot be ignored. And I have never heard of a single case where a person was misled by this book to think that people did not need conversion, did not need the blood of Christ, did not need to be born again.

In my judgment, Dr. Sheldon in the later years of his life and in his later books placed too much emphasis on social problems. In my judgment, he did not realize the danger of modernism and compromised with modernists. But in this book I do not see any evidence of this compromise and I have never heard of anything but good that came from the book. It was one of the four books that most greatly influenced my life for God and I feel it would be wrong for me not to sell it and bless others. Price \$1.00.

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SIN, THE GREATEST BLOT ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH

By HERSCHEL FORD, D.D.

"Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law."—1 John 3:4.

There is something terribly wrong with this old world in which we are living. We hear about it on every radio news broadcast; we read about it in every newspaper; and friends tell us dark stories of black deeds which they have witnessed. We look all around us and see wickedness rampant on every side. Certainly there is something wrong with the world. We need to realize that this trouble is not on the surface, but that it is deep-seated and internal.

Here is a man in the hospital whose face is pale and drawn, and he clutches at the covers and writhes in pain. We say to the doctor, "What is wrong with this man?" He certainly must have some terrible disease! There seems to be nothing wrong with his skin, so the disease must go deeper than that. The doctor then pulls back the cover and shows us the cancer which is eating this man's life away. Then we understand why the face is pale and drawn and why the man clutches at the covers and writhes in pain. Today we take a look at human society in all of its outward manifestations. We see murder, war, deceit and lust on every side. We look into our own hearts and we see the same things in a lesser degree. Our conscience tells us that we are not what we ought to be; there is something wrong with everyone of us. We are suffering from a dread malady. What is it? The Bible tells us that it is the deep-seated disease called SIN. Even the word has in it the hiss of the serpent. Sin is the greatest blot on the face of the earth.

I. What Is Sin?

1. Sin is the transgression of God's law.

This truth is given in our text—transgress means "to go across." You see a traffic light on the street. The light is shining red and yet you go across the street just the same. You have transgressed the law. You have broken the law. God's law is our standard and God shows man what is right and what is wrong. The law is straight, but when we go across it we have sinned, we have transgressed God's law.

Man's laws are fashioned after God's great laws. The law says that we should be honest, that we should not steal. When we are dishonest we go across the law. God has also said that we should not steal. A man who steals is a criminal before man and God. So it is with all other sins. God has given us the Bible. He has given us a conscience and He has put it into our hearts to know the difference between right and wrong. The transgression of God's law is sin.

2. Sin is rebellion against God.

The prodigal cried out, "I have sinned against heaven and before thee." David said, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned." When we sin we hurt others—when the father sins he hurts the son, when the son sins he hurts the father. But our sin is not only against man, but it is against God. It is rebellion against Him. Every sin is a blow upon the heart of God.

Take the matter of worldly indulgences. Unless we can be positive that they are right and acceptable in God's sight we should not engage in them. What then can we do? 1 Corinthians 10:31—"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." We can have a good time in the right way, but we should do nothing of which God would disapprove.

3. Sin is the omission of good.

James 4:17—"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Here is an aged mother who has an only son. That son neglects his mother; he sins away his money; the mother dies, and this son has killed her just as surely as if he had shot her. There are some people who know that they should confess Christ as Saviour, that they should follow Him in baptism, that they should be active church members and that they should

tithe. However, they refuse to do any of these things. This means they have sinned against the Lord who loves them.

When a little child is sick and his mother goes about her usual social duties, neglecting the child, if the child should die, we can truly say that she killed it with her neglect. You can kill a soul with neglect, also. On a little card I saw the question, "What must I do to be lost?" And the answer was—"Nothing." You know that you should repent of your sins and trust Christ as your Saviour, but if you do nothing about it you will be eternally lost. Sin, therefore, is omission of good.

4. Unbelief is sin.

The greatest sin in the world isn't murder. Men have been forgiven for that sin. However, if you go to your grave an unbeliever, there is no hope for you. Unbelief leads all other sins and is the cause of all other sins. Unbelief is the sin which damns souls.

A father gives many good things to his ungrateful son. The son isn't satisfied and the father gladly gives him all that he has. In spite of all this goodness, the son comes in and brutally slaps the face of his father. We would call him a base ingrate and say that he is a sinner of the worst type. The Lord blesses us and gives us many good things, and then as a climax, He gives us His best gift, the Lord Jesus Christ. If we will not accept Him and follow Him, we are slapping God's face and breaking God's heart. Yes, sin is the greatest blot on the face of the earth—it hurts and damns and dooms forever.

II. Who Commits Sin?

Let four brief Scriptures tell us. Romans 3:23—"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Ecclesiastes 7:20—"There is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

Isaiah 53:6—"All we like sheep have gone astray."

Galatians 3:22—"But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin."

The greatest and the best man in the Bible sinned. Moses sinned, David sinned, Paul sinned. There was only One who never sinned—Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

Yonder on the fairgrounds you see a merry-go-round. A rich man is riding a horse, a poor girl is riding a camel, and a little child is riding in a chariot. They are all going around in the same direction, and they are all controlled by the same central electric power. So it is in real life—the sinful millionaire, the sinful poor girl and the sinful little child are all going in the same direction, and they are controlled by the same central power. The name of that power is SIN.

You cannot show me a man who doesn't commit sin. The sin of the unsaved man may be on outward sin, and the sin of the saved man may be an inward sin. Their sin may differ in degree, but they are both sinners under the skin. A real Christian does sin and the more consecrated he is, the more quickly he feels sin. Would you like to argue on this point? Then let us ask Paul, the greatest Christian this world has ever known. He says in the seventh chapter of Romans, "The good that I ought to do I do not, but the evil which I ought not to do that I do." What is the answer? Here it is. Paul speaks again and he says: "It is not I, but the sin which dwelleth in me." He said that God had given him a spiritual nature, but that he saw another law in his body, even the law of sin. Then he says, "I serve God, but my flesh serves sin."

Before a man is saved he has only one nature, the nature of sin. If he is saved, he has two natures within him. These two natures are constantly warring the one against the other. The sinful nature often overcomes the spiritual nature, but thanks be unto God, the spiritual nature will win out

in the end. In that day when we see Jesus face to face, the old sinful nature will be laid aside forever, and we shall be like unto Him. Now, let us get this straight, the new nature does not sin. "Whoever is born of God doth not commit sin." The soul has been born again and it doesn't sin. The body hasn't been born again and the body does commit sin. The old sinful nature is still there and can be overcome only through the power of Christ.

III. From Where Does Sin Come?

1. Sin comes from the Devil.

It was he who brought sin and ruin into the Garden of Eden. Once man was made in the sinless image of God; now he is in the likeness of Adam, his sinful parent. "In Adam all die."

2. Sin comes from the sinful nature of man.

Matthew 15:18—"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man." Sin comes from a sinful heart. If the heart is wrong, the whole life is wrong. Dr. John A. Broadus tells about being in the city of Jerusalem one day when he heard the cry of a little babe. He saw this child lying in the grass and went over to pick him up and to soothe his fears. As he reached down to lift up the little child he heard the startling cry, "Unclean! Unclean!" He knew what that cry meant, and he did not pick up the little child. The baby was the child of leprovous parents, and although he seemed to be healthy and ruddy-cheeked child, the germ of leprosy was deep within his nature, and would some day come out to eat his vital life away. So it is, that deep down in the nature of everyone of us there is this thing called sin. Sooner or later it will crop out in everyone of us. Yes, sin arises from a sinful nature.

IV. What Is the Penalty of Sin?

1. Physical death is the first penalty of sin.

God said to Eve, "If you eat of this tree you will surely die." In the course of time, she ate of the forbidden fruit and, in due time, she died. If she had not sinned there would have been no death in the world, and while Eve may not have been here now, she would never have tasted death, but would have been translated even as Enoch or Elijah. If this original sin had not come into the world, you and I today would not be forced to go through the suffering which brings on death.

2. The penalty of sin is spiritual death and eternal suffering.

"The wages of sin is death." The soul that sinneth, it shall die. When man sins his life away there is nothing left for him but to perish forever in eternal hell.

Psalms 9:17—"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Daniel 12:2—"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

Revelation 20:15—"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 21:8—"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone."

Revelation 20:10—"And they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

These Scriptures are enough to make any man tremble and flee to Christ for mercy. The man who sins on and on, who rejects Christ continually and finally, will certainly be carried to Hell with the murderers and all other sinners.

Before we pass from this subject let me say that the sin of a Christian will find him out right here. "Be sure your sin will find you out." We pay dearly for every second of sin. "The sins which ye do two by two, ye pay for one by one." "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly small."

V. What Is the Remedy for Sin?

1. Education is not the remedy. There are those today who say, "Sin comes because of ignorance."

Let us educate people and they will not sink down into sin." However, some of the biggest crooks in the country have been the best educated men. Education of the head doesn't make a change of the heart. A certain man had a rabbit dog which he trained to hunt birds. One day he went with this dog out into the fields hunting quail. The dog happened to run across a rabbit's trail and ran off after the rabbit just as fast as he could go. He had been trained to hunt birds, but when the temptation came the old nature asserted itself. You can train a man and teach him how he ought to live, but if his heart hasn't been changed, his old nature will assert itself and he will fall before temptation.

2. A good environment is not the remedy for sin.

We often say, "Let's take this man away from his old companions and old environment and take him away to a new place and certainly he will live a good life." This doesn't work either, because sin and self are still there. You can give a pig a good bath, tie a ribbon around his neck and put him in your best room, but if you give him a chance, he will go back to his mudhole. This is his nature. You can change a man's environment, but unless a man's heart is changed he will go back every time to his old sin. Environment is not the remedy for sin.

3. Jesus Christ is the real remedy for sin.

"Ye must be born again." Get the heart right and the life will come right. Preachers do not need to preach on every little sin in the world, but we do need to preach Christ. If men get right with Him, all these other matters will straighten out.

(1) He saves from the guilt of sin. "There is therefore now no condemnation for them which are in Christ Jesus." He paid the price in His blood and frees us from our guilt. He justifies us by faith and makes us as if we had never sinned. He forgives and forgets our sins. No longer does He hold us guilty, but the dark page of our sin is covered by the crimson blood that flowed from Calvary's cross.

(2) He saves us from the power of sin. It is only through Christ that we can find the victory that overcomes sin. When we come against the tempter we have no strength of our own, we need His help. Sometime ago I saw a picture of a great wheel which was turning round and round. This wheel was filled with gamblers, drunkards and other sinners. In the center you could see the Devil turning the wheel around. On the outside of the wheel the preachers and other Christian workers were trying to stop the wheel. Underneath the picture was this sign, "Its human nature—you can't stop it." Yes, its human nature, but human nature distorted by sin and ruled by the Devil. But the Devil can be defeated and the nature can be made right when Jesus comes in.

(3) He saves from the penalty of sin. The old preacher was right when he said, "I don't know much theology, but I do know that if you go on in your sin without Christ you will miss Heaven and hit Hell." There is no Hell for us if we are trusting Christ. It is closed forever to the believer. Though we are guilty, though we deserve Hell we are delivered from its penalty because of the One who died on the cross for us.

Look at this picture in Heaven. Christ is in the robing room of eternity, preparing to come down to earth. God could have chosen the lightning, the thunder, or the angels of Glory, but He chose His only begotten Son to come and die for us. We ask Him the question, "How will you go into the world—will you go as an angel of light and woo men away from their sins?" And He answers, "No, I will go in the form of a servant. I will go in the garment of human flesh. I will make myself one with the sinful creatures of earth, and obedient I am without sin, I will be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He comes down to the world; He lives His life; He comes to the end of the way. Now I

WITH THE Evangelists

By Evangelist Robert J. Wells
Associate Editor

Dr. Appelmann in Pacific Northwest

Evangelist Hyman J. Appelmann has experienced mighty blessings from the Lord in four recent campaigns held in the Pacific Northwest. His office reports:

"In the two weeks' revival in Portland, Oregon, although handicapped by the fact that the city auditorium could not be obtained except for Sundays, although the services were held in the auditorium on the third floor of the Neighbors of Woodcraft Building, in the two weeks there were beyond 500 professions of faith, most of them uniting with the local churches...."

"In the three weeks' revival in Tacoma held in the basement of the Masonic Auditorium in Fellowship Hall despite the fact that the entire city was tied up with a thirty days' bus strike, cutting the crowds at least fifty per cent, there were more than 400 professions of faith. The Puget Sound Ministerial Fellowship sponsored the revival meeting. The chairman was Dr. Henry G. Dietz of the First United Presbyterian church. This was the second campaign conducted under these auspices in the city by Evangelist Hyman Appelmann...."

"In Seattle, Washington, despite the adverse fact that the services had to be moved to eight different auditoriums for the night meetings, in four different parts of the city in three weeks, there were between 800 and 1,000 professions of faith. This campaign was sponsored by the Seattle Evangelical Ministers' Association, by the Christian Business Men and by Youth for Christ. The crowds were uniformly large, time and again packing out the various auditoriums...."

Evangelist Appelmann reports that "to the glory of God in the last eleven months of campaigning there were more than 8,000 professions of faith."

see Him bowing his back before the smiter. I see Him endure the mockery, the blows, the crown of thorns. I see Him placed upon the cross and I hear him cry out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" I know then that His soul is making an offering for sin and that He is tasting death in order that we might be forever free.

I look at those three crosses on the lonely hill. On one cross is a sinner, rejecting Christ, going down to Hell. On the central cross is my Saviour, dying in my stead. On the third cross is a thief crying out, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." One man died in sin, one man died for sin, and one man was saved from sin. Jesus turned to that poor thief and said, "I will not only remember you, but I will remember and save all those who call on me by faith."

Oh, the wondrous mercy and grace which we find there upon Calvary! Will you call upon Him? Will you accept Him as your Saviour? If not, you are going to Hell with this other thief. Oh, trembling, hesitating, sinful soul, come to Christ and victory over sin will be yours for time and for eternity.

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Heaven--The Home of The Saved

(Continued from Page 6)

get there." But that is not the answer John got.

And somebody else would say, "Why, that's the crowd that was baptized a certain way and held out faithful to the end." But that is not the answer John got.

"Who are these?" "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7: 14). Every one of them was arrayed in a white robe, and every robe was washed in the blood of Jesus.

Jesus told the parable of the wedding feast. He said, "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness" (Matt. 22:11-13). Brother, you cannot get in without the wedding garment, and it is washed in the blood of Jesus. Settle that forever, my friend. If the Word of God is clear on anything, it is clear on that.

In the twenty-first chapter of Revelation He said, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." How can God make it any clearer?

In that wonderful fourteenth chapter of John, when He was describing the home of many mansions, Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Did you hear what He said? "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In the tenth chapter of John when He is talking about the sheepfold, He said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." He also said, "He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." Listen, friend, suppose you could get there some other way, why would you want to? Isn't Jesus good enough—Jesus, the Son of God, who loved you enough to die for you, made His soul an offering for sin for you, shed the last drop of His blood for you. I repeat, suppose you could get there some other way, why would you want to? If I knew there were one hundred ways, I wouldn't exchange Jesus for any of them.

What Kind of a Place Is Heaven?

The last question is: What kind of a place is Heaven? Well, I think it is just exactly the kind of place God tells us it is. Look in the twenty-first chapter of Revelation and read it. I believe that its streets are paved with pure gold. I believe that one day I will look upon those jasper-studded walls. I believe that I will see those gates of one solid pearl. I believe that it is a place of real mansions. Somebody may say, "Why, preacher, don't you think that language is figurative and that Jesus is just trying to tell us of the beauty of the place by using those beautiful things in describing it?" Well, then, why did Jesus say, "If it were not so, I would have told you?" In other words, He said, "If it were not exactly this way, I would have told you so." And then why did God stop John twice when he was

writing the description of that place to interpose these words, "Write: for these words are true and faithful." The Holy Spirit knew, and Jesus knew, that there would be a lot of smart alecks who would know more about it than Jesus did, and He wanted the people of God to be absolutely certain that He was telling them the literal truth. It is a real place, with real people, and a real Saviour, and a real God. Praise the Lord!

But to me, the most wonderful thing about Heaven is that it is home. Home! Do you know, when I am away in a meeting and it comes time to go home, I can hardly wait. I have had the nervous jitters all day today. Why? Because at one-thirty in the morning I am going to get on a plane, and I am going home. If I had to go to bed tonight, I could not sleep a wink. There is no use for me to go to bed tonight. There is no use for me to try to sleep on that plane; I am going home. John Howard Payne, who wrote, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home," touched the deepest chord in the human heart. Were you ever a long way from home and homesick enough to die? I know just exactly how those boys over yonder in the Philippines feel. I know why they have been making those protests. It is not because they are not loyal Americans! They just don't want to be away from home. After World War I, I was over there until July, 1919. I was homesick enough to die. On the fifteenth day of July, in Paris, I got a telegram which read: "Report in Brest on the morning of the seventeenth to sail for home on ship so and so," an American ship. Well, do you think I reported at Brest on the morning of the seventeenth? No, I was down there about daylight on the morning of the sixteenth! Brother, that was one time I didn't mean to miss the boat! It was going home. I didn't think it would sail on the sixteenth, but I thought I might get to see it. And just to see it would be like a tonic. All day long I paced up and down that long shed at Brest, looking for that boat. It didn't come in, and I did not sleep any the night of the sixteenth of July, 1919,—not a wink. The next morning, the seventeenth, I was out there by daylight, pacing up and down that long boardwalk, back and forth, looking out over the harbor. I would see a ship coming in. I would look at it and look at it. After a while I would see a French flag, and I would start walking again. Another would come in, and I would see a British flag, and I would start again. That was the longest day I ever spent in my life. About four o'clock that afternoon I saw a ship coming up over the horizon. I put my hand up over my eyes and looked and strained every nerve to see and watch that ship until it got close enough for me to see Old Glory. Brother, I had thought all my life that we had the prettiest flag on earth, and I still think so. But I tell you, it never was as pretty to me in my life as it was that afternoon; for that was the ship that was coming to take me home. When they pulled her in and let down the gangplank, do you suppose anybody had to beg me to get on? Why, bless your life, I was halfway up by the time the gangplank hit! I was going home! No, they didn't have to beg me to get on. And, you know, the strangest thing to me in this world is that people should have to be

begged to take Christ and go to Heaven. That is a thing I will never be able to understand: Why you have to plead and pray and weep and persuade and beg to get people to be saved, when salvation is offered in Christ as a free gift to everybody who will take it, and guarantees a passage to Heaven and home and eternal fellowship with God and loved ones and the saints in glory!

That ship was a slow one. It took fourteen days to cross the ocean. On the morning of the fifteenth day I was awakened by a band playing, "Home, Sweet Home." The music was floating in at the porthole of that ship. Out of the bunk I went and into my uniform and up on the deck. It was just getting daylight. I looked out there and I could see the shore of the homeland. The band had come out in a little boat to meet us. When they finished playing, "Home, Sweet Home," over on the other side of the ship another band started playing, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." I saw those sun-tanned soldiers standing there reach up and take off their caps and weep with joy like a bunch of little children. We had come home! We landed at Philadelphia. I got on the train, the Pennsylvania; and that is the slowest train I ever rode in my life! People can talk about the slow train through Arkansas all they want to, brother; but it is like greased lightning by the side of that Pennsylvania. It stopped more times, and they were the longest stops I ever witnessed in my life! Finally it crawled into St. Louis. I got on the Missouri Pacific and started down to Arkansas. I got down to Little Rock. When that Missouri Pacific pulled out of Little Rock, I knew it was just forty-two miles to home. I could not keep my seat any longer. I walked up and down that coach, back and forth, looking out the window at every tree and every house and everything else to see if I could not see something familiar. When we got on down to Pine Bluff, a great big Negro porter stuck his head in the door and yelled, "Pine Bluff!" Brother, that was the sweetest music I ever heard in my life! When the train pulled on down to the station, I said to the conductor—I had known him from boyhood—"Won't you pull up that platform and let me out on the steps? I know it is against the rule, but my mother and dad and my wife and my sister and my brother are down there at the station to meet me."

He said, "Go ahead and help yourself." I got hold of the rod, got out on that step, swung myself out and looked down the track. Soon I saw them. When we pulled in and got even with them, I just swung loose and took the whole bunch in my arms. I was home! Home!

Listen, unsaved friend. The old ship of Zion is alongside tonight. She's sailing for home. Home! We are inviting you to come aboard. Jesus is the Captain of that ship. She has weathered every storm of the ages. She has never lost a passenger. Come aboard. She is going home!

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The Origin of Higher Criticism or Modernism

The Higher Critic or the Modernist;

Denies the Verbal Inspiration of the Scriptures.

Denies the Miraculous Conception of Christ.

Denies the Virgin Birth.

Denies the Deity of Christ.

Denies the Vicarious Atonement.

Denies the Bodily Resurrection of Christ.

Denies the Necessity of the New Birth.

It is most interesting to know something about how this Higher Criticism or Modernism (as it is now commonly known) originated, that is in a modern sense, and who those who claim to be in that class are following. We know Satan is the original author.

Dr. J. L. Campbell, professor in Carson and Newman College, in his excellent book, "The Bible Under Fire" gives the origin of this movement. Quoting from his book, pages 6, 8, 9: "The modern founder of what is known at the present time as the Higher or Destructive Criticism of the Bible was a French physician of Jewish race, named Jean Astruc, who was born in France in 1684 and who died in Paris in 1766, aged 82 years."

"What do we know of this man Astruc? The best account that we have of his life is in an article of 32 pages in the Presbyterian and Reform Review, of January 1892, by the late Dr. Howard Osgood, the famous Hebrew professor in the Theological Seminary of Rochester, N. Y. In his bibliography Dr. Osgood cites 33 authorities that he had consulted in preparing this article, showing the characteristic thoroughness with which he did his work." He writes, "He (Astruc) was a man of very bad character and amassed his fortune out of harlots and brothels. He was one of the most decried men in Paris." Voltaire sneered at him as, "a

miser and a debauchee." "Astruc was a lascivious liver and the physician for the lascivious life of the wicked and drew his gains therefrom to his latest hour. At 45 or 46 years of age, though living with his wife and children, he formed a connection with the most notorious woman of all Paris, the procuress of the court, and maintained her publicly for 19 years until her death. He was the ally and intimate of the brother of his mistress—whose foul vices were the song of the Paris streets for 50 years."

"He commenced with an attack on the writings of Moses." "Whatever may be said of this Higher Criticism (modernism) of the Bible one way or the other, until much at least must be confessed, that it arose historically from a very unsavory origin. Such a man was totally unfit morally to discuss any religious subject."

The Origin of Fundamentalism. The Fundamentalist:

Believes the Verbal Inspiration of the Scriptures (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Believes the Miraculous Conception of Christ (Matt. 1:18-20).

Believes the Virgin Birth (Matt. 1:23).

Believes the Deity of Christ (John 10:30).

Believes the Vicarious Atonement (II Cor. 5:21).

Believes the Bodily Resurrection of Christ (Luke 24:39).

Believes the Necessity of the New Birth (John 3:3, 5, 7).

The Bible of which the Holy Spirit is the author teaches these. Jesus Christ, the perfect, sinless, spotless Son of God, confirmed these truths.

Isn't it strange what character of men people will follow, rather than believe the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ?

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1. Why did the Jews expect Christ to set up a literal kingdom on earth?
2. Will the Antichrist come before the Rapture?
3. Will Christians have to go through the Great Tribulation?
4. Will the Old Testament prophecy, "The lion and the lamb shall lie down together" and others like it, be literally fulfilled?
5. What has to happen before the kingdom of Christ begins on earth?
6. When will Jesus sit on His throne, the throne of David?
7. Will that be literally on David's throne in Palestine?
8. Will this war-torn world ever have real, permanent, world-wide peace?
9. Has God cast the Jews away forever, or will they yet be reunited in their own land?
10. If so, when will the Jews return to Palestine?
11. Where will Heaven be?
12. How many of the Bible prophecies are yet to be fulfilled?

All these questions—and a host of others—are answered in Dr. John R. Rice's fascinating, scholarly book, **THE COMING KINGDOM OF CHRIST**. It is full of quoted Scripture and is a logical, charmingly simple presentation of the greatest Bible truths. Col. F. J. Miles called it, "The greatest collation of Scripture on its theme since John Wilkinson issued 'Israel My Glory' over half a century ago." 15 chapters, 148 pages packed with facts YOU want to know. Clothbound, beautiful jacket drawn by the most famous Christian artist \$1.25 in America. Price only...



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